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Around the Christmas Tree

By

HARRIETTE WILBUR

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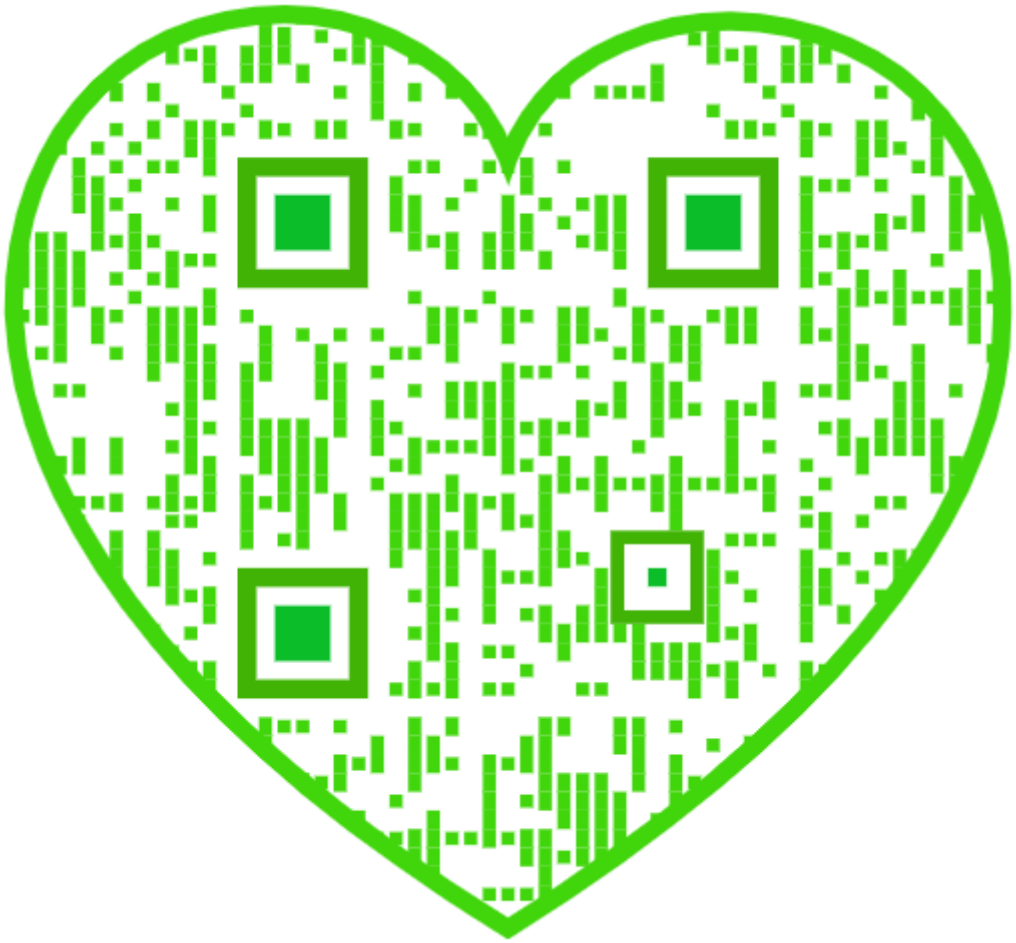

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Paine Publishing Co., Dayton, Ohio

Around the Christmas Tree

By HARRIETTE WILBUR

AUTHOR OF

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Around the Christmas Tree

For any even number of children, all boys, all girls, or half the number boys and the other half girls. Each one carries a string of tinsel, or a string of colored papers, which may be made of loops that are all red, may be green and red, or in rainbow mixture. In the center of the platform have the Christmas Tree, which may be an evergreen or a symmetrical little deciduous tree if an evergreen is not obtainable. It may be ornamented with the fancy drops that are such popular ornaments, with electric lights, or with unlighted candles, but with no tinsel or paper chains, as the children are to furnish this at the end of the drill.

Pianist plays any pretty 3-4 music with a swinging melody.

The children enter in a single line, boys and girls alternating in the line if both take part. They use this very simple glide step: On first beat slide right foot one step ahead; on next beat bring left foot behind right and rise on toes; on third beat settle down on heels. Circle about stage and halt in a single circle about the tree, but not too close to it.

1—Clasp hands in a single circle, facing outside or away from tree. On first beat slide right foot one step to the right; on second beat bring left foot behind right and rise on toes; on third beat settle down on heels. Repeat sixteen measures or as long as desired. Halt on last measure, still keeping hands clasped, and all face right.

2—Repeat same step as in 1, with right foot leading.

3—Facing left, repeat 2 with left foot leading.

4—Face right at close of 3. On first beat step forward on right foot; on next two counts kick left foot forward, raising knee and pointing toe downward gracefully. On second measure step forward on left foot at first count; on next two counts raise right foot behind. Repeat around circle.

5—About face and repeat 4 with left foot leading.

6—Halt in circle, partners facing. The girl of each couple, or every other even-numbered child, kneels and holds garland up at arm's length, while her partner circles about her using this hop step: Step on right foot, kick left foot, step on left foot, kick right foot. After circling about kneeling partner once,—taking eight steps not counting the kicks,—her partner kneels, while girl rises and circles about for eight steps, stepping first on left foot and circling in direction opposite to that taken by partner. After completing her circle, she halts while partner rises and both face each other, arms held up. (These steps are really very simple and the children will learn them easily.)

7—Each girl goes to the right with four of the steps described in No. 1, partners thus moving away from each other, one toward the center the other away from center. Then they take four of the steps toward each other meeting face to face on fourth step. Repeat. (The children moving toward the center from all around the ring will meet in a group close to the tree, on the fourth step, when they salute by flinging arms high. The children moving away from the center raise hands at the same time, facing away from the center and a good eight steps to the outside of the tree. This makes a very pretty and effective figure as the arms are all flung up on the fourth beat as all rise on their toes, one group being close to the tree, and facing it, the other far away from it and with back turned to it. Then when partners meet in original circle, they salute by again raising hands high.) Repeat 16 measures at least.

8—Repeat 1.

9—Partners stand facing each other, and raise garlands high. Using step as in 4, each passes to the right of partner and on around in a circle, weaving in and out with those met on the way. At close of third figure,

partners will be facing each other again, though the children should keep circling until the close of the sixteenth measure of music, no matter how many times the partner is met while circling.

10—Repeat 1-6.

11—Repeat 7, with this difference: When the first group of girls reach the tree, they toss their strings upon it as they lift their hands, then return to meet partners, which will take eight measures of music. Then the partners for the next eight measures move *toward* the tree instead of away from it, while their partners move away from it, this second group leave their chains on the tree, and return to meet partners.

12—Repeat 1, circling once around tree and then moving off in a single line.

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